12/2 '67

Dear Hal,

Your letter of 11/30 is very interesting. First let me remind you that there is no special delivery on rural routes. While our address is Frederick and we are but four miles from the center of town, we are in the country and our mail is delivered by a rural carrier. So, save those fast pennies.

Glad to hear that the book seems to be doing well. I am less impressed because the total orders of 1,4 of which I am aware are but 550 copies and you and Jon got some of them. Jon , of course, has a large supply that can be drawn on.

Thought I'd sent you copy of what I think of Thompson's work. He has come up with a formula designed to be acceptable to the government which now cannot avoid conceding some error. So, they'll concede there were other, non-conspirator assassins. He made deliberate mistakes to make his book acceptable, is careful to consider himself not a "critic" (for those he has unkind words, I've heard him). He still has Oswald the assassin. With that and no conspiracy, who in the government should now be displeased? He is smenece, a man of deliberate dishonesty, and withall a smoothie who, like the other professorial finks, presents the bland face of the scholar and the quiet voice of the man who seems to be detached.

I have letters from two men who appear to have scinetific or engineering backgrounds (one a copy of a long letter to the Ramparts editor) both of whom ridicule the pseudo-scientific calculations on the double head wound.

Good on what you did with Joe. He sound different this trip. That was the only punk show I did while I was out there.

I agree with you rather than Jon on the timing. The book could and should have been out months earlier. When the print job was as lousy as it was and the editing as terrible, I cannot understand why it was delayed.

If Jon places the ad, I hope it is in a way not to offend stores. I also agree with you on the quiet months. Maybe we can stir up a little interest, though. We did very well in those months last year and early this. If you have read my letter to Liebeler via the Californian, you may see that I may be starting something.

Looking forward to getting Lason's tape, and delighted at the locating and interviewing. Can you also send me a dub of the tape? As soon as possible. It is possible I may go to N.O. in a week, maybe even the end of this one. Did this man identify the person in the picture by the name "Alonzo"? Was he then known as "Alonzo". Did he react to other pictures? Very exciting! How about the man in the Oswald picture. That could be even more important. Try and learn which picture and who the man and when they met-all possible. This could be very important.

Thanks for the good Barb story. The Free Press reprinted it. Art Kevin sent me a copy. He now has a complete set of the False Oswald documents, as Paul also should have. Has your student read this entire file? He should, for then he can question better. Also, I hope he is familiar with the appropriate parts of both books. Paul sent me the same Daily Californian clips (very glad to have the extras) and I think I sent you a copy of my hasty letter to the editor. Liebeler had to have an efficient intelligence operation going. The morning of the second day, which in newspaper terms is about one day later, he was in print with his "responses". He must be worried. I presume that by now he is also a bit worried at my not having used the tape, not knowing it was only by accident. Perhaps, on the other hand, he will misread it.

My reception in LA was excellent. Art Kevin can supply a copy of Jim's speech. I think Nolan might use it, certainly Lason, if not others. If he doesn't, I'll lend you mine. Art has been very good. I have the FP issue with that and with Ray's piece, thanks to Art. I persuaded Ray to insist that the FP copyright it. I see they did.

Gough phoned me late this p.m. He had in mind what I think would be a very dull opening program that Vince had talked him into (temporarily), a philosophical

thing. Vince is so dull he put my own brother-in-law to sleep when I was on the same program. I tried to (and think I did) persuade Gough that it is past time that we free ourselves from the captivity of the past, that people are no going to go to meetings to hear a repetition of what they have heard before and read, that if Gh doesn't have something new to offer he'll lay an egg. I told him if this means only me, I am sorry, but why should anyone want to have nothing but what is no longer new, regardless of how true. I also counselled against pairing "critics" and gave him chapter and verse on why. He has problems, but to not be truthful with him with be self-defeating. I suggested he invite Rankin and/or Redlich, both of whom are in New York, to confront me on the pictures alone. He has agreed. Also Adams on any of it. Again he agreed. While both will undoubtedly decline, if they answer, he will then have an answer to a "one line" presentation and complaint about it. I think your idea to him is better than the one he suggested to me 10/31, that they take an off-Broadway theater for regular meetings, unless he can line up good content for his own meetings.

Hope your KPFK show has good results. Maybe it will bring more g's forward. Haven't heard from Lickerring and "Moderator".

Had a nice note from Owen (your opinion is solid) after he saw the NEWest.

I think the reason Jim invited me down to hear his LA speech was so that he could tacitly acknowledge his debt. At his home after dinner Sunday 11/5 he tried some of it out on me. I laughed and asked for his copy of PV. He handed it to me and those pages were bent down at the top corners. That is where he got it. In the speech he fumbled a bit on "faggots". His NBC stuff was from what I outlined to him from TIGER. Big as his eyes are, that night they opened wide. He is using this stuff well.

Stanley has been silent on me since the first articles. I've sent him copies of everything and asked Conyon to send him the latest. Sylvia and Vince are very close to Thompson. Maggie is furious at her now. She certainly knows that Thompson is deliberately very wrong, as she did with Epstein. These are the kinds of books she helps! Vince, too. You should see the letter he wrote Liberation, that precluded a planned review of MILKMAN. I'd like to see both Stanley's review and Sylvia's letter.

Glad to get the Bob Hyatt report. I think the time is now to nudge Liebeler a bit. I stayed away from Lifton when I was there. He tried often to reach me. If there is any other published Liebeler comment, I certainly want it. Incidently, I got some interesting quotes from the tape the Whites gave me. I am anxious to get his voice saying that the Commission knew that Ferrie was flying all over Texas the day of the assassination. I've got something also planned that I'll tell you about soon. Week-ten days.

I have only the original magazine piece on Giesbrecht. Please thank Mavr and ask him to send me copies of all tapes so I can study them (and forward-best if he can send two, for my facilities are poor). I'd like the clippings from the papers. Part of his story seems reasonable, some otherwise as reported. There is a Canadian connection that I do not doubt, esp. Shaw and likely Ferrie.

When I ask you to send stuff to the National Enquirer I am asking you to compete with me. So, I think you should. I am trying to work out a deal with them to finance the printing of my next book by what they buy from me.

The other tapes you ask for are available from Steve. Art also has a copy of the 5/2 tape. I hope Steve sends me the Crane thing. They changed and corrupted the format on me in the last minute and what they did at the end was dishonest. I think L was tipped off. I cannot imagine a same man in his position asking to go into that stuff, the 544 bit.

I have used Paul's stuff on the handbills once, crediting him (in LA). In fact, it goes well with the stuff I used on Ryne, and when Paul can make me copies, I'd like to use them more completely. I think, coming at the end of the Jones-Silvers FBI reports on the handbill, Paul's find would be very good.

You may have a very interesting point in Oswald's use of the wrong PO box no when he had no interest in replies. I think it interesting enough to call to Jim's attention. If you note any others, please let me know of them for the same purpose.

I don't know where I heard the name Coffey, save for the guy with Ferrie on his non-goose-hunting trip. I also heard of the Nieman-Marcus murder attempt. However, I recall nothing of either and I do not recall the place in the volumes, where it may have been. However, I may have seen it in the archives and not recall it.

By now this non-recall has become a serious problem. There is too much of it and it disturbs me.

I did tell Jim about Heine, but because he believes the affidavit was wrong I'll put it in writing. Thanks for the stuff on Verney. I'll never be able to dig mine out. I have 30-year-old stuff on him.

If you can send me a photocopy of the Medford Evans "would believe anything" article, I'd rather use that than the quotes, which I have used several times.

On the Lauchli photo, Esquire will not give me the time of day. James Harris has a better chance. However, if Harv will phone John Berendt (and not give his reason for wanting it), I'm sure Berendt will deliver. His phone is 759-3232. It is my impression that Lauchli's picture appeared in the papers out there. The Washington Star of 3/9/65 had a "Special Report" story on "The Hoters". In it they carried a picture of him and an unidentified man on "maneuvers" in Illinois. The Star might provide either the picture or the source. In this picture he is wearing a helmet. It is not a clear picture, as printed and aged, but I'd say it also shows his lips to be prominent. The author of the story is a very good investigative reporter(on rock things, not ours). She would not likely respond favorably to me because a year ago, at the press preview of the Minority Report show, she got drunk and obnoxious and was very embarrassed because of her writing on the other side. She is Miriam Ottenberg. I think she'd respond to Harvs. Nothing special about Lauchli in that story. All of this is a good approach. I'm certain Jim'll be interested. I do not want to impede, hence these suggestions. If you or Harv want me to make a direct approach to either, I will. If I can phone Haynes Johnson Tuesday when I'll be in DC, I'll ask him.

I had forgotten Jan's last name. Glad to have it. There is plenty of time, but I'd appreciate a word from him and/or his associates on any special kind of presentation they'd like. For example, would they like documents seen by an opaque projector? Have they one available, that can be seen where they'll have the speech? I'm glad about the expenses, but how about an honorarium? They do pay others. Is that possible? I think he also said the sponsorship would be the associated students (which is desirable).

I do not know of a single use of the UPI story. They did put it on the wire. Someone borrowed the copy I had and never returned it.

Interesting that you also note the "Bardes" reference. Jim and I were discussing that same possibility past month. In addition, I have the original FBI "transcription" which gives this, impossibly, as "Cordes". That it cannot be but an effort to steer away from that it might be is possible. The answer is yes, it could be, and that would be more than fascinating.

Right now the only recollection I have of tickets is along the freeway, young people with tape over their mouths. Could you give me a memo on your hunch on Rodriguez Greenberro and those docs. I have an interest in another Rodriguez whose matronimic I do not know. I'll send it to Jim. The things you'd like to know that Jim may have, can you give me a list of them (like this picture) and I'll take them up when I'm there. I'll probably phone Monday and see if they'd like me to come down for the week of the 8th. Hicks, I think, is in a Dealey Plaza picture, and when he was in Jim's office it was remembered and identified. I do not recall the entire story. Why not use the White files to see if papers carried a story on this picketing?

The John Joerg is not likely the man I mentioned, who is anything but the professorial type. Also, his similar name is fictitious. Interesting, though.

Klihr was a Walker assistant. Indications are that it is his car in those pictures. There is another version, Walker something or other, that shows part of the license plate. I'll be taking that to Jim, who was interested when I told him some of it could be made out. Klihr is also in Liebeler's Walker deposition. I know little about him, though. Why the interest?

Re Logue: I do not know what to make of it. However, check the copies of 1563 that Paul has, the Quarito report, I believe, and see if that is interesting. Let me know. I had suspected he bailed, but have no proof. If you get the "Who Killed Kennedy" booklet and it seems worthwhile, let me know and I'll get one.

Garrison and Belli got together on his previous trip to Calif. John can tell you about it. He did have an association with Belli himself. I gather that Jim shook Mel a bit. J. Lee Bailey was in on it. Belli's home.

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On the basis of what I know, I'd say it is not possible that the real Oswald was in Miami handing out FPCC lit or doing anything else in March 1963. However, this is not the only indication that there was someone later thought to have been Oswald in Miami. Could be interesting if we knew how dependable 26H 424f is. There is a Buchanan on one of the Miami papers who has a son whose name I believe is Jim who is now a reporter for WTTG-TV, DC, and who told me his dad had been assigned to make a study of the Report by his paper. If he is the same one, he did not so indicate when we met in June. He interviewed me. I may be there again soon and I'll ask him about this.

If Jim cannot speak to the Press club, could you ask Carney if they'd take me as a substitute when I'm there in Feb. That will be at a time Jim will have to be on his case, unless it is postponed again.

Not familiar with "Dimension" story.

Thanks for the notes of errors. I have never seen such a miserable job of publishing and cannot explain it. I haven't yet had time to read the whole book, but I've got corrections on 40 pages! There were two of yours I didn't have and am glad to get them in case we reprint. The first one really is 1967 (pp 49) I don't know what in the world they did with the copy there. On that occasion Ferrie told Bringuier he didn't believe the official story. Bringuier promptly decided Ferrie was some kind of "Communist". 325 is something similar. I think the linstype operator added the question because some of the copy was lost.

Re: 757 and 657: Underlining is an FBI means of noting error. That might be true in this case.

Changes in SS: Clint Hill now top at WH, Youngblood second only to Rowley.

The student memo enclosed has several interesting items. After by accident noting the unauthorized and unnecessary revision of a press release that had to be changed back to its original form when detected, I knew there was either no news background or a violent departure from traditional formulations. There was no reason to suspect bad connections. Probably the word will get back, in some form or another.

I hope Jona gets that Banks film. I want it to leave as a record, it is so typical of the evil attitude of the press on this.

He has been silent since I last saw him. His LA man did nothing and didn't respond to Steve's calls (Steve is absolutely fantastic for his years-18). No letter. He did seem to be coming down with something when last I saw him. Please tell him when he writes to send me the card of the WTTG TV reporter who was at the press conference. I want to write and explain that I couldn't get to Sacramento that trip and I'd like to see if I can arrange for it next time, maybe on a Sunday, if they can tape then.

There is little else new. The continuing money problems are not new, nor is the misbehavior of the wholesalers, which continues. We are both very tired. I pick up as soon as I face a challenge, but I move and feel like an old man. Lil has but three chapters to retype in POST MORTEM. When I can work the arrests in. I'll have to have a postscript, for I cannot rewrite the book for last-minute additions. Dick Billings was supposed to come down here Thursday but we got snowed in. Can get out now, but it is very icy. All of this must seem strange out there. We had about [illegible] feet of snow. Fortunately, the fuel-oil truck driver got his delivery dates mixed up or made an extra trip when he was nearby. We didn't need the oil but I sure do welcome his breaking a truck down the lane for me!

If Jim wants me down there the week of the eighth, I may leave here the 6st a.m. before, 12/9, like I did last time. I'll phone Monday. If I go then, I'll let you know immediately, so you can get in touch with me there or send things to me there. Incidently, those retypings of clippings are valuable. One thing that interested me very much is the confirmation of my logic about the significance of the 7/31 raid. I did not know that Guevro had called the shot the month before. And the 8/5 Managua meeting I think is also significant.

While I was gone there was an inquiry from one Henry I. Durkin, of New Rochelle, N.Y., a writer for the "New Guard", YAF magazine. He had had that some CF story sent him. He asked me about it. I answered him. He had written a story about FW and is going to about D in N.O. Be interesting to see what happens. I gave it to him straight. I think the magazine is a quarterly.

Looking forward, anxiously, to B tape and transcript. I'll copy and forward.

Thanks for everything. Best, H.